

cooperatively for disconnectably connecting the second sleeve in the open-end of the fixedly pivotably connected sleeve, said second sleeve being formed with an open-end for operably receiving an interchangeable tool bit member.

100. (Cancelled) The multi-functional hand tool of claim 98, said wing member edge having a cross dimension less than the tubular body and extends from the closed end to the tubular body.

101. (Cancelled) The multi-functional hand tool of claim 92, said handles being asymmetrical.

REMARKS

Applicants express their appreciation for the granting of the personal interview held on June 5, 2003. The interview was useful in helping to craft claim language which would unequivocally defined over the prior art, particular Beran.

Applicants have amended claim 92 to substantively include the limitations of now cancelled claims 93 and 96. The term "circumferential" finds support in claim 96 and the specification and drawings.

Claim 92 as amended unequivocally distinguishes over Beran. The so-called Beran sleeve is a thin "flat" metal "sheath" "substantially the same thickness as the [blade] shank". (See Beran at col.3, lines 20-21.) The Beran construction is antithetical to and teaches away from a

“circumferential tubular body”. The so-called Beran wing member extends from the closed end and not from the sheath (i.e., so-called tubular body). The Beran requirement that the sheath and blade be substantially the same thickness militates against a wing member extending from the sheath body as this would add undesired thickness to the Beran required “flat” thin “sheath”.

Beran is unrelated to (i) tool bits, (ii) in-sleeve tool bit storage, and (iii) interchangeable tool bits. Harrison teaches way from (i) tool bit sleeve storage with a (ii) fixedly connected pivotable sleeve. Harrison is therefore far removed from the present tubular wing member construction.

Insofar as Harrison is far removed from and Beran teaches away from a wing member formed on a circumferential tubular body, the art alone and/or in combination is fatally deficient.

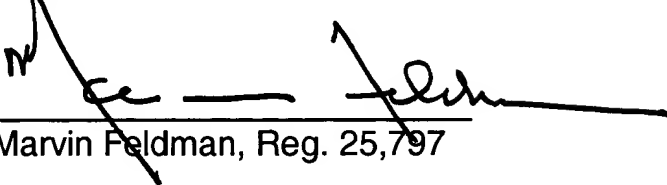
Applicants respectfully request an early Notice of Allowance.

A request for a one-month extension of time to respond was

previously made. A copy of that request is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 24, 2003

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Enclosure: Copy of Extension of Time Request